

VZCZCXRO7650
PP RUEHFL RUEHNP
DE RUEHRO #0445 1001450
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 091450Z APR 08
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0110
INFO RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY 9336
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY 2995
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES PRIORITY 3144
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMCSUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEABND/DEA HQS WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS ROME 000445

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

INL FOR SCOTT HARRIS; TREASURY FOR OFAC/MARK SAMARA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [IT](#) [KCRM](#) [SNAR](#) [PTER](#)

SUBJECT: ITALY WANTS COORDINATED ANNOUNCEMENT OF NDRANGHETA
KINGPIN DESIGNATION

REF: A. STATE 32259

[1](#)B. HALL-HARRIS EMAIL 3/26/08

[1](#)1. (U) Sensitive but Unclassified. Please protect
accordingly. Not for internet distribution.

[1](#)2. (U) This message contains an action request at para 3.

[1](#)3. (SBU). SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUEST. The Italian MFA
informed Charge d'Affaires on April 9 that the GOI welcomes
the possibility of a Presidential designation of the
'Ndrangheta organized crime group as a narcotics kingpin, but
strongly urges the U.S. to make the designation announcement
"in full coordination with the Italian Government." The GOI
would welcome a visit by a Treasury Department expert who
could help coordinate the process before the June 1
designation date. The Italian Ambassador in Washington has
been instructed by his government to contact INL PDAS Thomas
Schweich on the matter. ACTION REQUEST: In the event that
the interagency decides to move forward with the designation,
post recommends that the Department work with NSC and
Treasury to send an expert briefer to Italy and develop a
strategy for a simultaneous or joint announcement of the
designation. End Summary and action request.

[1](#)4. (SBU) Poloff delivered reftel demarche on the possible
designation of the 'Ndrangheta organized crime group as
narcotics kingpin to Italian MFA Director for G8 Affairs,
Counternarcotics and Organized Crime Diego Brasioli on March
[1](#)31. On April 9, Brasioli contacted Charge to convey the GOI
position that the designation would be a welcome step but
that it should be done "in full coordination with the Italian
Government." He said that the question had been examined "at
the highest levels of the Italian government," i.e. in the
Office of the Prime Minister. Given the "sensitive" nature
of the question and the international publicity that the
announcement would cause, the GOI believes that the
announcement must convey the message that the U.S. and Italy
are "in the fight together." A unilateral announcement by
the White House would convey the wrong message; the GOI
prefers a joint or, failing that, a simultaneous announcement
coordinated in advance.

[1](#)5. (SBU) Brasioli said that the GOI would continue to
cooperate "in every possible way" with the U.S. in the fight
against 'Ndrangheta activities and would welcome the visit of
an expert from the Department of the Treasury to further
explain the OFAC designation process and coordinate next

steps. He also said that the Italian Ambassador to the U.S. had been instructed to contact INL PDAS Tom Schweich on the matter. He said that the OFAC information sheets provided to the MFA make clear that other Western European companies and individuals have been designated, but this would be the first time that a Western European Tier One designation was announced. A unilateral designation may be acceptable in the case of South American Cartels, but not when the country in question is a G8 partner and NATO ally.

¶6. (SBU) As reported previously via ref email, Ambassador Spogli raised the possibility of the designation with the Italian Chief of National Police Antonio Manganelli on March 26. Manganelli welcomed the proposal, which he said would further strengthen the excellent cooperation between U.S. and Italian law enforcement. U.S. Embassy Legal Attache and DEA Regional Attache will meet with Manganelli's deputy on April 15 to discuss the matter further.

¶7. (SBU) Comment: The increase in 'Ndrangheta activities has been widely reported in the Italian and European press and the GOI is seized with the need to combat the growth of the organization. Mission Italy consensus in discussing the possible designation has been that USG objectives will be best served by full Italian Government cooperation and buy-in. The fact that the Prime Minister's Office has weighed in on the issue demonstrates both GOI commitment to strengthen cooperation with us on anti-organized crime efforts and the sensitivity of the issue for Italian public opinion. We recommend that the designation process go forward with full U.S.-GOI coordination on the announcement.

BORG